

Increased energy prices are being reflected in increased food prices at the grocery store and at restaurants. We have stopped eating out at restaurants completely, and have made major adjustments to our eating habits, and to portions served during meals at home. We are going back to a simpler and less varied diet, and just trying to keep the staples like beans, rice, milk, bread, eggs and cheese.

These changes we have made as a family do have an effect on our local economy, as we are holding on to more of our dollars, and not spending them in the community, the local community businesses suffer—it is noticeable because there are a lot of families like ours who are doing the same thing we are because we simply have to in order to survive.

Our country is in a real predicament with the way the government has managed our agricultural production as it ties in with energy production. Ethanol is a poor solution as it requires an imbalance in our crop production, and now wheat prices are sky-high and production is behind. Corn uses a lot of water, which requires fuel to pump and irrigate with, so the net result of ethanol production to use is worse than with pure fossil fuel.

I am not so concerned with the rising cost of fuel, as we truly do have lower fuel costs than most of the rest of the world, and there is nothing wrong with changing our lifestyles to be less consumptive of our resources. What does anger me is that fuel companies are recording record profits quarter after quarter, while the cost of fuel is sending our entire economy into a crisis, and causing our nation to be weakened as a whole.

KRISTINE, *Spirit Lake.*

First off, I would like to thank you for taking action on our country's current energy crisis. I was starting to think that most of our country's politicians were either simply ignoring the issue or were not taking it seriously. I am so glad to know that you are taking the initiative to look for answers to the problem, and I am even more impressed that you are actively looking for answers among the people you represent. This does more to win my [confidence] than any [action] could ever do.

My husband and I enjoy traveling, and the rise in prices has definitely cut down on our travel this summer. We are staying home more often and eating out less. My husband is a student in the nursing program at ISU in Pocatello, and we are concerned about trying to pay for gas as he travels between Idaho Falls and Pocatello on a daily basis this fall. In a more specific example, my husband's mother has Alzheimer's disease, and since our time left with her is limited, we planned a family reunion this year to give her at least one more chance to have all of her children and grandchildren around her. Some of my husband's family live far away, and as airline prices continue to increase, it has really strained their budgets to try to buy plane tickets to come to Idaho. As a family, we have all pitched in to help pay needed travel expenses, but it has been tough. I hate to sound like a whiner, vacationing and eating out are things I can, in the long run, live without, but the problem is that energy prices just keep getting higher, and I do not see any light at the end of the tunnel. I am starting to worry that I will not be able to afford to heat my home this winter. This last winter we used an electric blanket so we could turn our heat off at night and save energy, and we kept our thermostat low and dressed in warm clothes during the day, but Idaho winters are cold, and there is not much more we can do to conserve. We have

to have energy to heat our homes and transport us to work and school, and we are getting to the brink of not being able to afford it.

As for answers to the problem, I am no expert on this stuff, but I have done a little reading, and the best answers I can find are as follows:

(1) Build coal to oil plants. Our country has a lot of coal, and we can produce oil from coal for cheaper than we are buying it right now.

(2) Make a push to build more nuclear power plants in the US, and get to work on building them NOW!—they take a long time to build and we are running out of time. I realize there is a strong minority in our country that is good at halting any effort toward starting new nuclear energy plants, but I think if the American public were better educated on the benefits, safety, and cleanliness of nuclear power, the public would stand up against those minorities that are stopping nuclear power in the US. That is why I think that along with trying to build more nuclear power plants, we also need to educate the public.

(3) Drill ANWR. I think that speaks for itself.

(4) I have been really disappointed that our President does not seem to be saying much on the energy crisis. I think he needs to address the American people and make it clear that he sees this as a national crisis. I think he needs to outline for the public what options are being debated in Washington, and what the road blocks are we face. I really think that if he would address this problem directly and publically, it would capture the public's attention and get people more active in standing up and working together to help fix the problem. When 9/11 happened and our country faced a huge crisis, the people of this country came together to help those in need. I think that if we had a leader that let the public know what was going on with the energy crisis—i.e., why we are having such a huge energy crisis and what our options are to fix things—then the people of this country would band together to find answers. Personally, I would like to see the American public band together to fight against all the minority groups out there that stand in the way of things like nuclear power and drilling for oil in places like ANWR, but that just might be me.

Thanks for your efforts. I am glad to know someone in Washington is working on this.

LALOVE, *Idaho Falls.*

I believe getting a handle on energy prices is of utmost importance for our economy. If we do not get it under control, I believe we are headed for a depression the likes of we have never seen before. With the trade imbalance growing along with the cost of oil, at some point something is going to break because we cannot keep a deficit growing at this rate. It is vital that we look into alternative energy sources but that is years away and we need to solve this problem now. It also bothers me that a lot of the money being spent is going to countries that support terrorism. That just seems so backwards.

We need to develop the resources we have. It is so ironic that the activists that are preventing the development of our resources may in fact actually destroy the things they are trying to preserve. I am in favor of protecting the environment but we need to do it in the right way. When energy prices reach a certain point, the majority of the population will demand that these resources get developed any way possible and that would probably end up destroying the environment worse than if we do it the right way now. You can not stop development of it forever

and I think we need to do it now when we can control how it is done. In other words, I believe there is a point where the resources will be developed without concern for the environment. I do not think we are far from that.

In summary, I think we need to start developing our oil resources now and continue to work on alternative energy (including nuclear). If we delay I believe it will be economically and environmentally disastrous for us.

BRENT, *Meridian.*

Speed limits 55 mph national. This might help. Slow up and save money.

LOWELL, *Emmett.*

We lost our semi, our independent trucking business. We cannot afford groceries anymore. We nearly lost our house of 16 years, too. If [changes are not made soon], all Americans stand to lose a lot.

JOHN and LAURIE.

Reduce highway speed limits. I drive the interstate between Nampa and Fruitland three times per week. The speed of the traffic, although the limit is 75, is 65 or less. Motorists want permission to drive slower. Lower the speed limit to 55. Truckers would then have a reason to drive slower. They want to save money, but since the speed limit is 65 and all the finances around their trip is based on traveling that legal limit—they have to go 65.

LORI, *Nampa.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING BRONZE MEDAL SCHOOLS IN KENTUCKY

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I congratulate the top public schools in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I was pleased to learn that U.S. News and World Report awarded 26 high schools in Kentucky with a bronze medal for their outstanding performance on standardized exams and for providing college-level coursework.

These 26 Kentucky high schools have shown that they foster an environment that serves all students, no matter their academic goals, by demonstrating a commitment to excellence through quality education. These Bronze Medal Schools back this up with measurable academic outcomes that show improvement throughout a range of performance indicators.

I have always been proud of Kentucky education because of its relentless effort to enhance and develop the lives of every student. This is a well deserved recognition for the excellent work that is done by all of these high schools, and I would like to congratulate each for its great success.

The following schools were commended with awards: Barbourville City School in Barbourville, KY; Bardstown High School in Bardstown, KY; Central High School in Louisville, KY; Corbin High School in Corbin, KY; Dawson Springs High School in Dawson Springs, KY; Eminence High School in Eminence, KY; Evarts High School in Evarts, KY; Frederick Fraize High School in Cloverport, KY; Graves County High School in Mayfield, KY; Hancock County High School in Lewisport,

KY; Harlan High School in Harlan, KY; Hazard High School in Hazard, KY; Hickman County High School in Clinton, KY; Jackson City School in Jackson, KY; Johnson Central High School in Paintsville, KY; Magoffin County High School in Salyersville, KY; Owensboro High School in Owensboro, KY; Paintsville High School in Paintsville, KY; Paris High School in Paris, KY; Phelps High School in Phelps, KY; Pineville High School in Pineville, KY; Russell County High School in Russell Springs, KY; Walton-Verona High School in Walton, KY; Whitley County High School in Williamsburg, KY; Williamsburg City School in Williamsburg, KY; and Williamstown High School in Williamstown, KY.

Again, I commend these high schools for a job well done. I hope that their efforts will inspire other schools in Kentucky and around the country to strive for the best.●

CONGRATULATING SILVER MEDAL SCHOOLS IN KENTUCKY

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I congratulate the top public schools in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I was pleased to learn that U.S. News and World Report awarded seven high schools in Kentucky with a silver medal for their outstanding performance on standardized exams and for providing college-level coursework.

These seven Kentucky high schools have shown that they foster an environment that serves all students, no matter their academic goals, by demonstrating a commitment to excellence through quality education. These Silver Medal Schools back this up with measurable academic outcomes that show improvement throughout a range of performance indicators.

I have always been proud of Kentucky education because of its relentless effort to enhance and develop the lives of every student. This is a well deserved recognition for the excellent work that is done by all of these high schools, and I would like to congratulate each for its great success.

The following schools were commended with awards: Beechwood High School in Fort Mitchell, KY; Bowling Green High School in Bowling Green, KY; Dupont Manual High School in Louisville, KY; Highlands High School in Fort Thomas, KY; Louisville Male High School in Louisville, KY; North Oldham High School in Goshen, KY; and South Oldham High School in Crestwood, KY.

Again, I commend these high schools for a job well done. I hope that their efforts will inspire other schools in Kentucky and around the country to strive for the best.●

REMEMBERING MARY SWEENEY

● Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to remember one of my constituents and a

life-long New Yorker, Mary Sweeney of Niagara Falls. Seven years ago, it was my great honor to send congratulations to Mary and her husband John on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. I know that her fighting spirit will live on through John and her children, Moira, John, Billy, and Brendan, and a large and loving family of grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Born in the Great Depression, Mary exemplified the hopes and dreams of New York families whom I have had the honor and privilege of representing in the Senate these past 8 years. Mary had an ardent appreciation for public service and the political process, and she remained true to her strong convictions throughout her life. She was a loving wife and mother who worked every day to ensure opportunities for her children. In retirement she enjoyed her many grand-children and great-grand-children and she should be proud that the rewards of her commitment to her family, her church, and her community can be seen in the many accomplishments of her family and extended family and in the many loving tributes that have been shown to her since her passing.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT COOK EDWARDS

● Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of a dedicated educator and innovator, Clemson University president emeritus Robert Cook Edwards. After a lifetime of unprecedented service to his students as Clemson's longest serving chief executive, Dr. Edwards passed away in Seneca, SC, on December 4, 2008, at the age of 94.

Dr. Edwards will be remembered for his legendary leadership, strength in business negotiation, and passion for Clemson football. Known as a giant in the history of Clemson University and affectionately referred to as "R.C." by his students, he led the institution through a period of peaceful integration and phenomenal growth to become a thriving, coeducational, and diversified university.

Born and raised in Fountain Inn, SC, Dr. Edwards attended Clemson College at the young age of 15. He went on to graduate with a bachelor of science degree in textile engineering in 1933, and after a successful career in the textile industry, he returned to Clemson as the university's first vice president for development in 1956. Dr. Edwards became acting president in 1958, after the death of President Robert F. Poole, and was eventually elected president on April 9, 1959, by the board of trustees. He became the eighth chief executive of Clemson and the second alumnus to hold the position.

Dr. Edwards peacefully led the university through racial integration when its first African-American student was enrolled in 1962. Despite the recurring turmoil of racial tensions

during the 1960s, President Edwards handled those challenging times without incident. His brave actions resulted in progress and advancement of equal civil rights throughout the State of South Carolina.

By the time of his retirement in 1979, Dr. Edwards had awarded over 28,000 diplomas, which represented more than 70 percent of all the undergraduate degrees and doctorates awarded in Clemson's history to date, the student body had grown to 11,000 students, 4 schools had become 9 colleges, and the students could choose from over 60 majors. Because of Dr. Edwards's oversight, leadership, and enthusiasm for growth, his influence has stretched beyond the gates of the university to impact the lives of men and women all over the country.

Dr. Edwards was predeceased by his wife Louise Odom Edwards, who died on July 29, 2008. She was affectionately referred to as "Moon Pie" by Clemson students and alumni and was said to be a perfect compliment to her husband, "R.C."

Robert Cook Edwards's legacy will live on not only in the hearts of his students and fellow educators, but through the developments and achievements he has accomplished at one of our Nation's finest institutions. I ask that the Senate join me in commemorating Dr. Edwards's lifelong dedication to higher learning and to the State of South Carolina.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7321. An act to authorize financial assistance to eligible automobile manufacturers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7327. An act to make technical corrections related to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 3663. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to provide for a